

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **EASLEY ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENT BY UNIVERSAL LEAF IN EASTERN NC**

**ROCKY MOUNT** – Gov. Mike Easley today made his fourth major new job announcement this week when he unveiled plans by Universal Leaf North America to invest \$100 million and bring 1,000 new jobs to Eastern North Carolina.

In all, Easley announced plans this week by four international companies to invest more than \$350 million in the State's economy and bring 2,700 new jobs.

"Our competitive edge is our willingness to invest in our workforce even during tough economic times," Easley said. "While other states are cutting schools, universities and community colleges, we are making greater investments that will pay tremendous dividends."

"The investment that Universal Leaf is making in our workforce and our economy will bring a much needed boost to the job market and tax base of Eastern North Carolina."

Universal Leaf, a tobacco processor, plans to build a new state-of-the-art facility that will draw 1,000 workers from Nash and surrounding counties including Edgecombe, Halifax, Franklin, Wilson and Warren. The average annual salary of the plant employees is expected to be \$28,000.

On Tuesday, Easley announced that Japan-based Viscotec Automotive Products will locate its first North Carolina facility in Burke County, creating 200 jobs and a \$50 million investment. The company will occupy a 217,500 square foot facility in Morganton and plans to begin operation in the spring of next year.

On Wednesday, Easley visited New Bern and unveiled an expansion of BSH Home Appliances Corporation, which will create more than 1,400 new jobs and a \$150 million investment. The company, the third largest manufacturer of household appliances in the world, will expand its Craven County operations over five years. The company already has invested \$50 million in New Bern and employs about 400 workers.

On Thursday, Easley announced the dedication of BorgWarner Turbo Systems new North American headquarters and technology center in Asheville, bringing 100 new high-skilled jobs and a \$50 million investment to Western North Carolina. The facility is an expansion of the company's existing manufacturing and distribution facilities in South Asheville. The new headquarters and technology center will be housed in a 23,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility and will hold test facilities for engines, engine systems and turbochargers.